



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **Commission Awards \$1,122,466 Grant to Stanford University and the San Diego County Office of Education to Improve Teaching and Learning**

January 2004 --- Stanford University will receive a three-year grant of \$1,122,466 in federal monies that have been earmarked for improving the quality of teaching. In partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, the project goal is to improve reading skills in students attending schools with low API scores, schools with high percentages of English language Learners, and schools with many students from low socio-economic levels. 150 teachers in Vista Unified School District and Escondido Union School District are expected to participate. This grant will give our teachers the tools they need to help all our children succeed," said Assemblyman Joe Simitian.

According to the proposal, the efforts are designed to increase teachers' knowledge of techniques for adapting a more rigorous "information text" reading curriculum. Studies by Stanford professors had found that most teachers serving high need K-5, Title I schools with low API scores use a "story text" instructional technique that they believe is easier for their students. These same teachers indicated a need to increase knowledge of techniques for adaptation of "information text" to the curriculum.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission has been administering federal funds to improve teacher professional development since 1984. This year the Commission has made awards totaling over \$10 million in the *Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program*.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov). Regarding this program, you may contact Dr. Michael Kamil, Stanford University School of Education, at 650-725-5452; or Ellie Topolovac, San Diego County Office of Education, at 858-755-3939.